

Private First Class Amy Sinkler, of Chadbourn, North Carolina. On the morning of January 20, 2011, Amy lost her life while defending our Nation in Afghanistan during an attack by insurgents. I ask that you join me in honoring her memory and service as we mourn this tragic loss.

A native daughter of Chadbourn, Amy had always expressed her desire to serve her country. Amy graduated from West Columbus High School in 2006. While in high school, she participated in the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps to prepare for a career in the Army, which she joined in August of 2009. After training at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, Amy joined the 109th Transportation Company, the "Rough Riders," stationed at Fort Richardson in Alaska. She began serving in Afghanistan in July 2010, and she was sadly taken from us just six months into her first tour of duty. Amy was only 23.

Amy will be sorely missed by her family and friends. She was the daughter of Randolph and Jackie Bullock Thompson and a sister to four siblings, Brittney, Sharonda, Sabrina, and Randolph Jr. She was the loving wife of Douglas Sinkler, her high school sweetheart, with whom she made her home. Her grandparents were Roosevelt and Irene Thompson and Raleigh Early and Juanita Bullock. Amy touched countless lives by serving as an admirable example of selfless service. She was so admired by her family, friends, and community, in fact, that hundreds of people attended vigils in remembrance of her. Amy's funeral on January 30, 2011, was one of the largest ever held in Columbus County, with over 1,000 people coming to pay their respects to Amy and her family.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said that a person demonstrates greater nobility in war than in peace. Amy Sinkler's inspirational life and service to our country prove this to be true, and we will always remain in awe of the life she lived. May God bless her family, and may we always remember the life of Private First Class Amy Sinkler.

SUPPORT AMERICA'S BORDER COMMUNITIES

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced H.R. 543, legislation to include certain Department of Homeland Security facilities, such as ports of entry, under the Payments in Lieu of Taxes, PILT, program.

Since 1976, communities have received payments from the Interior Department's PILT program to help offset losses in property taxes due to nontaxable Federal lands administered by the BLM, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Forest Service.

However, all along our Border, communities are not reimbursed for land that the Department of Homeland Security uses for ports of entry. The community often provides resources and services to these facilities without reimbursement from the government. My bill, H.R. 543 provides support for these communities.

H.R. 543 amends existing law to include certain Department of Homeland Security fa-

cilities, such as ports of entry, under the PILT program. Providing access to these payments will help these communities with the important work they provide along our borders.

HONORING ERICA LYNN CRUMP

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to my constituent Erica Lynn Crump of Walton, Kentucky who passed away suddenly on December 28, 2010.

Erica worked as a clerk for the I.R.S. and was a member of Erlanger Baptist Church. Not only did she serve others through her work and church; she also gave back as a dedicated and passionate volunteer for the Republican Party, the Republican Women's Club, numerous campaigns and other conservative political causes.

She considered volunteerism her niche in life. She loved the responsibility it gave her, the opportunity to learn and make a difference—and she loved the people with whom she worked.

More importantly, Erica was a mother. She cared for and unconditionally loved her daughter Grace.

Her commitment to her daughter, family, friends and community will be greatly missed. Erica's example is inspiring to all those who serve others.

Today, as we celebrate the life and accomplishments of this exceptional individual, my thoughts and prayers are with Erica's family and especially her daughter Grace. I share in their sadness, and pray that God's peace will comfort them in their time of need.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW YORK BRANCH OF THE NAACP

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of the founding of the New York Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

On January 27, 1911, 100 years ago, the New York Branch of the NAACP received its Charter. Organized by Executive Committee members Mary White Ovington, Charles H. Suddins, Frances Blascoer, Oswald Garrison Villard, Gilchrist Stewart, Joel E. and Arthur Spingarn, the New York Branch was the first Branch established in the National Association's history.

In April 1911, Dr. W.E.B. DuBois proposed that the Branch should have an investigator and organizer to examine cases and complaints, to raise funds and develop a "forum for discussion." Gilchrist Stewart, a young attorney, was chosen to fill this role and become Chairman of the New York Branch Vigilance Committee. In the fall of 1911, the Branch opened in Harlem where "colored people could report any cases of injustice before the

law." During the first six months, three cases were handled involving police brutality, which led to the trial and suspension of one police officer.

The New York Branch had successful campaigns to break up the pattern of theatre segregation. Despite these activities, the Branch was adversely affected by a lack of stability. In December 1913, the Board decided that the New York Vigilance Committee be reorganized and focus on fundraising for the National Association. The legal work handled by the Vigilance Committee was transferred to the National NAACP office, which by then had a full-time lawyer.

At one time, the New York Branch became inactive, and when the NAACP Annual Report was published in 1916, the Branch was not listed. According to historian Charles Flint Kellogg, the original charter had been lost. Since there was no record of its date of issue, a new charter had been issued on November 11, 1917, when James Weldon Johnson succeeded in organizing a Harlem Branch and became its Vice President. That same year, Ms. Mary White-Ovington secured approval from the NAACP National Board to enroll those individuals who participated in the 1917 Silent March on 5th Avenue. Each individual received a compensation of \$1 while serving as a member of the branch for the duration of 1 year.

During the fall of 1931, the New York Branch reverted back to an inactive status, and the NAACP National office enlisted Field Organizer Daisy Lampkin to conduct a membership campaign which ended on October 2, 1931. As a result of the campaign, 500 new members were enrolled and \$3,323.00 was raised. As a result, the Branch was reorganized and granted a renewed charter on November 9, 1931.

In addition to Dr. Annie B. Martin, the New York Branch has had several distinguished activist and civil right leaders to serve as President during its history, including: James E. Allen who later helped to organize and become the first New York State Conference President; the Honorable Ella Josephine Baker, who was one of the visionaries who created the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1957; the Honorable Judge Jawn Ardin Sandifer was one of two NAACP staff lawyers who successfully argued *Henderson v. United States*, the unanimous Supreme Court decision ruled that railroads that operate across state lines may not bar passengers from eating in dining cars because of their race.

It also includes two of my dearest friends and brothers, the Honorable Basil A. Paterson, former Secretary of the State of New York and renowned national labor attorney; and the Honorable Percy Ellis Sutton, our former Manhattan Borough President, civil rights attorney, business leader and founding Chairman of the Board of the largest black-owned radio stations in the nation, Inner City Broadcasting, Inc. Other past Presidents who served include Russell Crawford, Lind H. White, I. Joseph Overton, Richard A. Hildebrand, Jeff L. Greenup and Carl Lawrence.

Today, the New York Branch has been one of the largest leading membership Branches of the NAACP. Led by its President, Dr. Annie B. Martin, the New York (Harlem) Branch is continuing to work steadfastly on the front lines of

the fight for justice. The Unit played a prominent role in the "Overground Railroad" demonstrations over voter registration concerns, started a Saturday program to help students develop study habits, and held legal redress forums, community health fairs and civic engagement activities.

OPPOSING THE REPEAL OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, America is the strongest Nation in the world, we hold our freedoms sacred—and we have fought to protect these freedoms for centuries, and many have paid the ultimate sacrifice. Yet, there is a great and impending threat to that strength and freedom, a threat that imperils millions of Americans—the repeal of our Nation's Health Care Reform.

As a new member of this Congress, protecting Health Care Reform is the first line in the sand. I was sent to Washington to fight for Rhode Islanders. As I have heard loudly over the past year, and witnessed first-hand as a Mayor for the last 8 years, families in my state have spent enough time awake at night worrying about where they'll find work, or the security of their current job. I will not support any action that places an additional burden on the people of Rhode Island. I will not have them lie awake at night, now having to once again worry that they will lose their health care when they need it most, or wondering how they'll pay for this month's prescriptions, or whether their child will be denied coverage because of a pre-existing condition.

Just yesterday I had the privilege of hearing from a Rhode Islander, Alex Lataille, who spoke at the one and only hearings Congress had, to discuss the negative effects of repealing the new health care law.

Alex graduated last May with two bachelor's degrees, and while looking for a job after graduation, he is able to afford health insurance because he can stay on his parents' policy. Repealing this law means Alex and millions of Americans will lose their coverage.

Recently while having breakfast in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, I met a young woman named Beth. She said she was going to be a constituent of mine, and she had only one request. For years she had been, and remains, an insurance sales agent. But for as many years, she has been denied access to health insurance because of a pre-existing condition. Each and every day served as a painful reminder that while she was selling insurance to others, she was being denied the very same coverage. As someone well attuned to the health care industry and the Affordable Care Act itself, this young woman knew that health care reform meant hope, provided certainty, and would finally allow her to get the access to affordable health care she would need—relieving her of years of fear and anxiety. She asked for my commitment to defend health care reform.

The Affordable Care Act establishes a Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan—one that would provide new coverage options for Americans like Beth until 2014, when, finally, all dis-

crimination against Americans with pre-existing conditions will be prohibited. Recently I also had the opportunity to speak with Susan, a mother of five from Rhode Island. Susan and her husband Ed are both middle-income earners. Recently their two sons, age 22 and 23, graduated from college. Both sons found entry level work, but neither receives health insurance from their employers. Under the current law, both sons will be eligible for coverage under their mother's health insurance plan when it renews in eight months. Susan went on to tell me that it would cost her more than \$600 per month to provide coverage to her sons through COBRA. She said that with three children still at home, and despite the fact her and her husband are employed, they cannot support the added expense beyond eight months.

With repeal of the Affordable Care Act, the temporary gap that Susan and her family face would become a permanent gap. We are sending a deplorable message to Americans, and indeed the world, if we abandon hard working men and woman like Susan and Ed, and let their two sons—both college graduates, both duly employed, go without health coverage until they find jobs that provide health insurance.

I come to this Congress to help bring common sense solutions to complex problems. When I look at the impact of repealing the Affordable Care Act, I think about the struggles of Alex, Beth and Susan, Ed and their two sons. I think about the number of Rhode Islanders who will once again find themselves saddled with greater financial burdens. I think about the many men, women, and children of my state who will once again face uncertainty over something as fundamental as their own health and well-being. When I think about these consequences, it is common sense, and an understanding of the struggles faced by so many Rhode Islanders that compels me to object so strongly to this proposed repeal.

I was sent here to find practical solutions to solve the problems facing Rhode Island families. Let's work to improve this law, not repeal it.

CONVEYANCE OF SUBMERGED LANDS TO THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Mr. SABLÁN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 670, a bill that will give back to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands three miles of submerged lands surrounding our islands.

Exactly two years ago, I introduced the same bill, which was H.R. 934. The bill was lauded by the leaders of the Commonwealth Government and the Legislature. The bill received wide support from both sides of the aisle and in fact was unanimously passed by the House on July 15, 2009. The bill was also approved by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in May 2010. The bill was made part of Senate Majority Leader REID's The America's Great Outdoors Act of 2010, which was introduced in the closing

days of the 111th Congress. However, the Senate did not act on Senator REID's omnibus lands bill because of many competing priorities.

But allow me to explain why this bill is crucial to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands and why it has received such wide support. The Northern Mariana Islands is the only U.S. jurisdiction that does not have ownership of the submerged lands three miles off its shores. We have been a Commonwealth under a permanent Covenant with the United States since 1976. For thousands of years, the Chamorro and Refaluwasch people farmed the land and fished the seas. However on February 25, 2005 the people of the Mariana Islands were shocked to discover that the waters and the submerged lands below them did not belong to them. But that they were the property of the United States of America, as concluded by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. In the same breath, the Court recognized the integral connection between the land, water and my people. The Court pointed out that Congress can return these lands back to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. H.R. 670 does exactly that.

I want to thank all those Members who are original cosponsors of this bill and I ask that my colleagues support H.R. 670.

ROBERT H. RAWLINGS

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, It is my sincere privilege to rise and pay tribute to the lifetime achievements of Robert H. Rawlings, a man whose personal compass has guided him to business success, philanthropic accomplishment, and given him a deep conviction for civic duty. For all of this Mr. Rawlings will be the recipient of the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award from the Rocky Mountain Council and The Boy Scouts of America. In receipt of this prestigious honor, Robert Rawlings joins an exclusive fraternity whose roster includes Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and President Gerald Ford.

This Las Animas, Colorado, native is most prominently known for his successful ownership and editing of The Pueblo Chieftain, Southern Colorado's most circulated publication. This alone merits recognition, but Mr. Rawlings' accomplishments are far more reaching than simply owning and editing a newspaper. Mr. Rawlings admirably served his country in World War II as a member of the Navy in the South Pacific. Then he endeavored to become the newsman he is today. As his newspaper career began to flourish, so did Mr. Rawlings ability to give back to Southern Colorado. The size and scope of his community involvement has been immense; ranging from the financing and leadership behind the Robert H. Rawlings Outdoors Sports Complex to co-founding of the Pueblo Economic Development Corporation. Mr. Rawlings has also made notable contributions as president of the Colorado Press Association, Colorado Associated Press, Colorado Bar Press; he has been involved with the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library, served as chairman of The Pueblo Medal of Honor Committee, and has worked